

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Andy Williams was still fuming this week at the decision that cost his side their F.A. Cup first round match at Maidstone on Saturday.

Maidstone scored the only goal of the match with an indirect free-kick from just outside the area which Blues goalkeeper Peter Spittle touched as it entered the net.

But Mr Williams disputed the original decision. "There was no way it should have been a free-kick," he said. "I would probably be up in front of the F.A. for bringing the game into disrepute, if I said what I really thought about it."

Maidstone's Glen Aitken made the most of this chance by striking a super shot, although, of course, the goal would not have counted if Spittle had not touched it. This was typical of some of the bad luck that Wycombe have suffered from in recent weeks.

So were the two occasions on which Blues struck the Maidstone woodwork. The home keeper Dickie Guy tipped Steve Long's shot on to the bar, while Dylan Evans struck a post from close in.

NO JUSTICE

Mr Williams bemoaned his

side's misfortune by saying, "There's no justice in football. The result was an absolute tragedy for we totally outplayed them in mid-field."

With the F.A. Cup now sadly behind them, Wycombe must devote their attentions towards the F.A. Trophy, the first round draw of which will be made on Monday. Blues will be hoping, at last, for a home draw — something they have never enjoyed in this particular competition.

Meanwhile, the Berger Isthmian League season carries on tomorrow (Saturday) when Wycombe travel to face Kingstonian, who seem doomed along with Leytonstone, to fill one of the two relegation spots at the end of the season.

With last week's results continuing to produce a high number of draws, the Premier Division is levelling off apart from Enfield at the top and the unhappy pair at the bottom.

CASUALTIES

The club have a quiet programme before Christmas — there's no game scheduled for Saturday December 9 — but Mr Williams feels that if they can keep picking up the points, they could still be in contention at the end of the season — such is the extraordinary pattern of results!

Wycombe's injury problems continued when John Maskell suffered an old leg injury at training last week, but the news is better about Blues other two casualties.

Les Reed is almost fit after badly cutting his back in the bath at Aylesbury United. While Dave Allanson's knee is out of plaster. However he will have to undergo intensive treatment for the next fortnight and is unlikely to be back before Christmas.

With Garry Fowles having left to join Hayes, Wycombe now have a 16 man squad. But Mr Williams said he had no plans to sign on additional players.

Kingstonian have virtually none of last year's side left at Richmond Road. Indeed only goalkeeper John Overton, full-back Tommy Mahon and defender Derek Vaughan remain.

New manager Barry Rowan, the former Millwall player, who used to manage a side in South Africa, had a big clear-out when he took over from Peter Gleeson in the close season.

YOUTH POLICY

Mr Rowan has put his faith in youth, but so far this season his gamble has not paid off. They have won only twice in 21 games, although of late their results

have not done justice to their performances.

He has brought in three talented coloured youngsters in Errol Rhoden from Dulwich, Fitz Samouth, who scored 64 goals for Malden Vale last season, and Leon Mitchell. But they have lacked consistency and for that reason goalscoring has become a problem. They average less than one a game.

If Wycombe can lift themselves after the Maidstone disappointment they should certainly improve on last year's 1-1 draw at the same ground.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	23	15	3	5	41	20	48
Leatherhead	22	12	3	7	38	21	39
Hendon	24	10	8	6	35	31	38
Dulwich	19	10	6	3	34	15	36
Croydon	21	10	6	5	31	18	36
Walthamstow A	22	11	3	8	33	24	36
Dagenham	21	11	3	7	37	32	36
Barking	17	10	4	3	41	27	34
Wycombe	22	9	7	6	32	22	34
Slough	21	9	6	6	22	18	33
Tooting	25	8	8	9	30	32	32
Woking	18	8	5	5	32	26	29
Boreham Wd	21	8	4	9	27	33	28
Hitchin	20	8	4	8	27	33	28
Tilbury	20	7	4	9	33	44	25
Carshalton	22	5	9	6	31	34	24
Staines	23	4	10	8	27	38	22
Oxford	22	6	4	12	27	47	22
Sutton	22	5	6	11	24	30	21
Hayes	23	3	11	9	21	34	20
Kingston	21	2	7	12	19	38	13
Leytonstone	19	1	3	15	14	41	6

Friendly

WYCOMBE Wanderers entertain Carnegie College in their annual friendly fixture on Wednesday. One man unable to play in the match will be Steve Hardwick, who has been chosen to represent an FA XI in a game against London University at Harrow Borough on the same night.

Next week's FA Trophy first round draw will be made on Tuesday.

Wycombe go up to fifth

Hoping to be at home

WYCOMBE'S pre-Christmas programme, which includes two friendly matches in the next week, will be interrupted this afternoon (Tuesday) by the announcement of the first round draw in the FA Trophy.

Blues, who have been exempt up until this stage, have never been drawn at home, since they entered the competition four seasons ago after the disbandment of the Amateur Cup. They will be hoping for better luck this time.

Tomorrow they entertain Carnegie College in their annual friendly at Loakes Park, while on Saturday they are at home to Southern League Premier Division leaders Kettering Town in another friendly.

This could prove a useful test for Wycombe's first round FA Trophy match which takes place on Saturday, January 13.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to 2/12/78)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	24	15	3	6	42	22	48
L'herhead	23	13	3	7	40	21	42
Dagenham	22	12	3	7	40	32	39
Hendon	25	10	9	6	36	32	39
Wycombe	23	10	7	6	34	22	37
Dulwich	19	10	6	3	34	15	36
Croydon	21	10	6	5	31	18	36
Walthamstow	22	11	3	8	33	24	36
Slough	22	10	6	6	24	17	36
Barking	17	10	4	3	41	27	34
Tooting	26	8	10	30	34	32	29
Woking	18	8	5	5	32	26	29
Boreham Wd	22	8	5	9	28	34	29
Hitchin	20	8	4	8	27	33	28

WYCOMBE Wanderers moved four places up the Berger Isthmian League table and pushed Kingstonian into further relegation trouble with a simple 2-0 victory at Richmond Road on Saturday.

On a cold, raw afternoon Wycombe gave a heartening performance against admittedly poor opposition, who seem set to go down with Leytonstone at the end of the season. Blues are up to fifth spot and will be happy that their local rivals Slough overcame leaders Enfield.

Wanderers fielded the same 12 that faced Maidstone, but with Dylan Evans on the substitute's bench in place of Atkins, who played right through the 90 minutes.

It was Atkins, scoring his first goal for two months, who gave Wycombe the lead in the 45th minute, just as it looked as though their first half pressure would go unrewarded.

Indeed it was following a Kingstonian's only concerted attack of the first half

Kingstonian 0, Wycombe 2

that Blues broke away to score.

Hesitated

From a Kingstonian corner, Terry Scott cleared upfield to Steve Long, who sent Mick Holfield away down the left wing.

Given plenty of room, Holfield beat one man before cutting in and firing a shot which goalkeeper John Overton could only palm straight to the feet of Atkins. Even then, the Wycombe forward hesitated before putting the ball into the empty net.

The rest of the first half had seen Wycombe set the pace without really looking dangerous in front of goal. Their corner kicks from Steve Long and Terry Scott left a lot to be desired.

They seemed obsessed with inswinging kicks — half of which went into the side netting. One or two outswingers would surely give them more options. In all,

Wycombe forced nine corners — and never once looked like scoring from one.

The other slightly disturbing aspect of the half was a booking for Steve Hardwick for showing dissent after being penalised. This was Wycombe's fourth caution of the season — and already it is their worst disciplinary record for many years.

For a long time Wycombe have been respected for their sportsmanship on the field. It would be a pity if this well-earned reputation were to be tarnished.

For much of the second half Kingstonian produced some attractive flowing football, which caused some problems to the Wycombe defence, which has stiffened up considerably since the return of Keith Mead.

John Martin and former Wanderers striker Steve Hill had their chances but they spoiled many of their better efforts with wayward shooting.

The visitors also created

some good chances and both Atkins and Holfield went close before Paul Birdseye sealed the result with a remarkable goal 12 minutes from time.

Pile-driver

Collecting a clearance in mid-field, Birdseye shook off two strong challenges before unleashing a pile-driver from 25 yards with his left foot. The ball rocketed into the roof of the net as the Kingstonian defence stood like statues in complete amazement.

It was the full-back's second long range goal in four games. One or two of his colleagues, who play in the forward line, could learn something from this talented player, who after all, was scoring with his so-called wrong foot!

KINGSTONIAN: Overton; Mahon, Vaughan, Major, Whatford, Adams (sub: Rowan 71 mins), Rhoden, Martin, Samoth, Hill, Mitchell.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, S. Hardwick, S. Atkins, M. Holfield, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Scott. Sub: D. Evans (not used).

Referee: E. Griffith (Palmer Green). **Half-time:** 0-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Holfield (45 mins), Birdseye (78 mins).